

SHEERER

Serial No. **09/848,434**

May 1, 2003

IN THE CLAIMS

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 to 21 (Cancelled).

22 (Amended). A substantially vertical vessel having a vertical internal surface, and comprising:

an inlet at or adjacent a top portion of said vessel;

an outlet at or adjacent a bottom portion of said vessel; and

at least one substantially continuous annular protrusion connected to said vertical internal surface and in a substantially horizontal plane, and having a maximum spacing from said internal surface of between about 1-12 inches, said protrusion having a surface area exposed in said vessel and said surface area being substantially entirely impervious, and said annular protrusion having a cross-section selected from the group consisting essentially of right, isosceles, or scalene triangular, arcuate, and rectangular, and wherein said annular protrusion has an inner circumference defining a perimeter of a substantially hollow region with the vessel and in the ~~substantially~~ horizontal plane ~~is a substantially hollow region of said vessel.~~

23 (Amended). A vessel as recited in claim 22 wherein said protrusion has a substantially isosceles triangular cross-section with an apex angle between about 10-175

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wherein said protrusion has an annular upper side and annular lower side forming the triangular cross-section, and said sides are both impervious.

24 (original). A vessel as recited in claim 22 further comprising a plurality of said protrusions, vertically spaced from each other between about 1-12 feet, and each having a height of between about 1-3 feet.

25 (Amended). A vessel as recited in claim 22 wherein said protrusion is arcuate in cross-section with a radius of curvature equal to or greater than its height, wherein said surface area of the protrusion is impervious along an entirety of the radius of curvature.

26. (Amended) A vessel as recited in claim 22 further comprising at least one screen assembly within said vessel, wherein said at least one protrusion being axially vertically offset in said vessel from said screen assembly.

27 to 32 (cancelled).